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POLAND: Party Central Committee Plenum

The long-delayed plenum on youth that begins today will contain little that is new for the alienated and dispirited younger generation, but it offers Premier Jaruzelski an occasion to outline his program for reducing martial law restrictions. [REDACTED]

Widespread speculation persists that the regime will announce the release of some or all internees or the modification of martial law. Several sources, however, claim the leadership has made no decisions. [REDACTED]

One source reports that disputes between hardliners and reformers on a variety of subjects, including the release of internees, have led to reversals of numerous decisions. He says there is general agreement among the leaders that the squabbles cannot be allowed to continue and that both sides seem prepared for a conclusive battle at the plenum. [REDACTED]

Observers at the Vatican say Pope John Paul II has decided that political conditions are not right for a visit to Poland in August. The Pope will ask the Polish leaders for an alternative date. [REDACTED]

Comment: Jaruzelski probably has been under pressure from moderates to announce conciliatory gestures to persuade Western governments to cancel economic sanctions. The Premier's aversion to taking risks and pressure from hardliners at home and in Moscow, however, are likely to cause him to make only modest, symbolic gestures that leave the essentials of martial law unchanged. [REDACTED]

Despite the many failings of martial law, Jaruzelski's critics probably do not have enough strength to mount a frontal attack on him at the plenum. There could be increased criticism, however, of the continuing drift. [REDACTED]

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